

THESIS

**DISTRIBUTION, FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE AND BEHAVIORAL
PATTERNS OF SPINNER DOLPHINS (*Stenella longirostris*) IN THE
MARINE PROTECTED AREA OF PIEH ISLAND, WEST SUMATERA**



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ABSTRACT

Spinner Dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) are marine mammals found in the Marine Protected Area of Pieh Island since 2016. Pieh Island TWP is a marine conservation area that consists of five islands are Bando Island, Pieh Island, Air Island, Pandan Island and Toran Island. The purpose of this study was to determine the distribution of *S. longirostris*, the frequency of occurrence and behavior patterns of *S. longirostris* that appeared in the Marine Protected Area of Pieh Island. The method used in this study is a survey method with line transect zig-zag method and the method of recording using the continuous recording method. The results of the frequency of occurrence of bow-riding activity is greater on July on July 8th, 2021 than January 20th, 2022. The factor that affects frequency of occurrence is that the boat speed of 8-10 knots increases the bow-riding activity of *S. longirostris* more than speed of <8 knots. The pattern of bow-riding behavior is characterized by swimming following the boat's movement with a zigzag swimming pattern and jumping. The zigzag swimming pattern is for adjusting speed and occasionally jumping is to remove parasites in the body and play. Other behavior from those research, there were avoidance, aerals dan feeding behaviors. Based on the results, it can be stated that *S. longirostris* is a dolphin that often appears around Pieh Island and Pandan Island also, the speed of the boat is the affect the frequency of bow-riding activity of *S. longirostris*.

Keywords: *Stenella longirostris*, Pieh island, survey method, Frequency occurrence, bow-riding, avoidance, aerals, feeding

